



GILLER GAL
Kim Echlin of
Continuing Studies is
on the Giller Prize
short list — page 3

the Bulletin

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Engineering professor wins NSERC Synergy Award

BY APRIL KEMICK

A U of T professor who partnered with a multinational environmental company to produce better methods for cleaning up contaminated sites has won a major national innovation award.

Professor **Elizabeth Edwards** of chemical engineering is the winner of the 2009 Synergy Award for Innovation in the category of partnership with a large company. The award, announced Oct. 19 in Ottawa by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), honours outstanding achievements of university-industry collaboration. Edwards received a \$200,000 NSERC research grant for her win.

Edwards was recognized for her highly successful partnership with Geosyntec, a multinational consulting firm that helps clients with new projects and complicated issues involving the environment, natural resources and civil infrastructure.

"Working with great colleagues at the University of Toronto and Geosyntec, we've managed to come up with innovative solutions that are improving the efficiency of contaminated site cleanup," said Edwards. "These projects have a very exciting fundamental bioscience aspect but the partnership has ensured they also have a very real applied aspect. It is tremendously rewarding to actually see what we do in the lab put into practice in the field and we're thrilled to be recognized for this work."

Edwards' research group examines how biological processes affect the fate of pollutants in the environment. They look at how novel types of bacteria that grow in unusual conditions can help naturally detoxify harmful chemicals often found in groundwater.

With Geosyntec, the researchers created a bioremediation treatment that destroys contaminants caused by two of the world's most common and persistent pollutants — a common drycleaning agent (perchloroethene) and a degreasing solvent (trichloroethene). The process has been successfully used to decontaminate hundreds of global sites, is cheaper than traditional remedies, uses less energy and works more quickly.

"The success of this ongoing collaboration has generated a renewed enthusiasm and an expanding commercial market for bioremediation for chlorinated solvent remediation, particularly in the United States, but also

• • • NSERC ON PAGE 4

STUDENT ZOMBIES



U of T undergraduate student Jessica Chen (right) and her friend, Julienne, prepare for Halloween by taking part in the 2009 Toronto Zombie Walk in Trinity Bellwoods park last Saturday.

Gairdner 50

Foundation

Celebrating top-notch biomedical science

BY TAMMY THORNE

From Oct. 28 to 30 many of the world's top biomedical researchers will convene at the University of Toronto for the Gairdner Foundation's 50th Anniversary Toronto Symposium.

The Gairdner Foundation, overseer of the prestigious Canada Gairdner Awards for contributions to medical

science and research, reached its half-century this year and U of T is hosting the party. The three-day

event brings together past and present Gairdner Award winners — including 23 Nobel Prize winners — for a series of lectures and panel discussions on topics that range from the personalized genome to stem cell research to global health issues to chronic disease.

Professor **Catharine Whiteside**, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, said U of T is privileged to host to the prestigious event.

"The Gairdner prizes have become

the most significant life science award in Canada. The winners provide great inspiration to our faculty and students and that's why we at U of T are very fortunate and honoured to be associated with such a prestigious event," Whiteside said.

Among the Nobel winners in attendance will be Elizabeth Blackburn, 2009 Nobel Prize winner in medicine.

Blackburn is also a member of the Gairdner medical advisory board. Blackburn and co-winner Carol Greider (with Jack

Szostak) won their Gairdner Awards in 1998 for the same work that prompted the Nobel 11 years later.

On the day of the announcement, Professor Emeritus **John Dirks**, president and scientific director of the Gairdner Foundation, told the media: "Today's announcement demonstrates the Gairdner Foundation's long-standing track record of recognizing the

• • • CELEBRATING on page 4

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

50 Years constitutes ...

quite a track record for any program, so it's time to turn our gaze to the Canada Gairdner Awards which celebrates their 50th anniversary this week (Oct. 28 to 30) at the University of Toronto with a gathering of former award winners, as well as a cavalcade of Nobel Prize recipients (see page 1).

The Gairdner Foundation, the organization that makes the awards, was established in 1957 to recognize and reward the achievements of medical researchers whose work contributes significantly to improving the quality of human life. The foundation began bestowing awards to these pioneers in 1959

and numerous distinguished researchers have been recipients, among them U of T University Professors Emeriti James Till and Ernest McCulloch, the fathers of stem cell research, and Louis Siminovitch, as well as University Professors Tony Pawson and Tak Mak.

The foundation annually holds a public symposium at the University of Toronto. Professor Emeritus **John Dirks** of medicine, the foundation's president and scientific director, is

the driving force behind the symposia and taps into his large network of connections to bring many of the brightest minds in biomedicine here to share their knowledge. Many of his colleagues in the Faculty of Medicine and affiliated hospitals and many students pack the McLeod Auditorium to hear them speak free of charge. It's a gift they don't take lightly.

This year's edition brings more luminaries than ever to U of T as part of the anniversary celebrations. The speakers in Toronto this year include Elizabeth Blackburn, 2009 Nobel Laureate in medicine; Oliver Smithies and Harald zur Hausen, also Nobel Laureates; and prominent U of T researchers **Prabhat Jha**,

Andras Nagy and Tony Pawson.

The U of T community can enjoy a piece of the symposium, too, at a public lecture Oct. 30 entitled The Personal Genome: Do I Want to Know? It features two respected researchers and Charles Sabine, the NBC news correspondent who is a carrier of the gene for the tragic Huntington's disease. Join the celebration of 50 years of recognition for medical excellence by attending. Visit www.gairdner.org for registration information.

Regards,



Elaine Smith,

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the **Bulletin**

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The top and sidebar art on the front page is composed of images of the Stewart Observatory, located on the St. George campus.

IN MEMORIAM

Jefferies was renowned Arctic scientist

BY AILSA FERGUSON

Professor Emeritus Robert
Jefferies of ecology and evolutionary biology, one of the world's leading Arctic scientists and global change biologists, died July 8 of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was 73 years old.

Jefferies grew up in Somerset in western England. He majored in botany with subspecialties in

chemistry and microbiology at the University of Bristol, graduating in 1958. He went on to doctoral work, completing his PhD in plant ecology at Bristol in 1962. He then went to the University of California at Davis for two years on a fellowship before returning to the U.K.'s new University of East Anglia in Norwich. At this stage in his career he was studying ion transport and mineral nutrition of plants in relation to salinity.

He joined U of T in 1975 and was invited to go to La Pérouse Bay to study goose-plant interactions in the salt marshes of Hudson Bay. This was the start of an odyssey that continued until his death. Each year he spent the summer with graduate students on the Hudson Bay coast studying the effects of large populations of snow geese on the landscape.

Jefferies' ecological research centred on the Hudson-James Bay system, especially the region surrounding Churchill, Man., where his studies of nesting snow geese helped to make this one of the best-understood northern ecosystems worldwide. While he had a wide range of interests Jefferies was recognized internationally as the dean of goose-plant interactions in Arctic environments, a field of study he almost single-handedly created.

His research documented the consequences of changing climate and wildlife populations on the region and his efforts played a central role in setting North American wildlife management policy and in the establishment of Wapusk National Park. His work on goose populations at high latitude was instrumental in demonstrating long-distance consequences of modern human activity in a biological world.



Because of the importance of his work, Jefferies was nominated to serve as one of the Canadian representatives to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). With the other panel members, he shared the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC in 2007.

In his more than 50 years of professional activity, Jefferies published more than 100 scholarly articles and delivered hundreds of lectures

on his research to university audiences, research conferences and colloquia.

Jefferies had a real passion for teaching and his enthusiasm never waned. And although he retired in 2001, he continued to teach. "I enjoy teaching first-year biology and have done so ever since I arrived in Toronto," Jefferies said in his profile online. Perhaps one of his most lasting achievements was in helping create BIO150 — Organisms in Their Environment — in 1990, a course required by most science students, with classes ranging from 1,600 to 1,800 students. He was the only professor in BIO150 who had taught in the course every year since its inception. He was slated to teach in the course again this September.

As a testament to his commitment to education and research his former graduate students now occupy positions of influence throughout the Canadian ecological establishment where they play instrumental roles in developing national policy in ecology and environmental sciences.

"To his students and colleagues, he stood out as a gentleman of unusual grace and generosity. Gentlemen have become rare enough in modern life that whenever one has the pleasure of an encounter one is refreshed by the experience," said Professor Rowan Sage, a colleague in ecology and environmental biology.

"With his death, Canada has lost one of our most important northern researchers at a time when such expertise is increasingly vital and increasingly scarce."

A celebration of his life will be held Nov. 9 at the Great Hall, Hart House from 2 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.



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Giller Prize nominee Kim Echlin teaches writing at the **School for Continuing Studies.**

ARTSZONE

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

For Kim Echlin, renowned writer and School of Continuing Studies professor, earning a place on the short list for the Giller Prize is a most profound honour. Echlin's third novel, The Disappeared, is one of the five books on this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize short list.

"One of the things that's really wonderful about this award is that it's an international jury and it's great to be part of that group of nominees, they're all wonderful writers," Echlin said.

The Disappeared is the story of a young Canadian woman in love with a Cambodian refugee who eventually must return to his home country. She follows him and is drawn

into the horror of genocide in Cambodia and the harsh afternath.

"The Disappeared is an elegiac, beautifully told memorytale of obsessive love," said the Giller jury. "On one level, the novel is a young Canadian

woman's bildungsroman; on another, a profoundly moving account of the genocidal horrors of the Cambodian killing fields and its terrible aftermath. Written in elegant, spare prose, The Disappeared confronts one of the most painful conflicts of our time; the collision between our private, personal desires and the brutal, dehumanizing facts of modern history."

Each year, the \$50,000 Giller Prize goes to the author of the best Canadian novel or short story collection published in English and \$5,000 goes to each of the finalists. This year's Giller Prize will be announced Nov. 10 at a gala.

Echlin said writing this recent book entailed much more research than her previous novels Elephant Winter, Dagmar's Daughter and Inanna: From the Myths of Ancient Sumer.

"I was in a market in Cambodia the first day l was there. A stranger came and sat beside me and she was talking about Canada. She leaned in very close and she said, 'I want you to know that my entire family died in Pol Pot time.' It was so startling and so moving and I didn't know what to say. That story really stayed with me when I returned from Cambodia and it was around that story that I started to think I should write this story," she said.

"It took an enormous amount of research, I read the truth and reconciliation commission reports from South Africa and many others to try to get a sense of what it takes to have the courage to tell the stories after you've gone through the trauma of genocide. I read virtually every testimonial of people that survived the genocide. I

> wanted to ensure I reflected the situation in Cambodia." Born in Burlington, Echlin said she always had a passion for writing.

"l always knew I wanted to write. I remember the intense excitement when I could decipher something like 'see Jane run.' l remember the physical experience of actually hearing those letters and sounds. For me writing is a passion and I don't feel right if I'm not writing."

She has also written and produced television for the CBC and written for independent producers.

"lt's all language play. It's been really rich for me to work in all the different media."

She said teaching at the University of Toronto has played a role in her writing

"I love teaching and I love sharing the creative process with the students," she said. "Teaching writing helps me to be able to articulate the techniques of writing. The students that come to the classes are really passionate about writing and they come from all walks of life."

Echlin will be teaching Creative Writing Through Reading in April, 2010.

PHYSICIST WINS SCIENCE PRIZE

BY KIM LUKE

University Professor Richard Peltier of physics has been chosen by the Franklin Institute to receive the 2010 Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science. Peltier is the first Canadian to receive the \$250,000 award and joins a group of previous recipients that includes Marie Curie, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

The Bower Award recognizes Peltier for fundamental advances in the understanding of Earth systems and for demonstrating profound interconnections between surface climate variability and the internal properties and dynamics of the solid Earth.

Founder of the Centre for Global Change Science at U of T, Peltier is known worldwide for his work in global climate

change. He has developed powerful models using sophisticated mathematical concepts to depict what has happened to our climate over the past 600 million years and what is likely to happen far into the future if human behaviour does not change. His models are considered the gold standard for researchers trying to understand climate change.

"The physical state of our planet may well be the most important question facing us today. Professor Peltier is one of the scientific leaders who is helping global society to understand the challenges and opportunities we face in saving our fragile Earth. His innovative research continues to be vital to a host of possible solutions," said Professor Paul Young, vice-president (research). "This is a marvellous and richly deserved

honour for Professor Peltier. On behalf of the University of Toronto, we congratulate and thank Dick for his contribution to our knowledge of global climate change."

Peltier's achievements have been recognized with many of the top honours in his field, including the 2004 Vetlesen Prize, often called the Nobel Prize of earth sciences. He is also listed among the most highly cited earth scientists in the world from 1991 to 2001, is a fellow in the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and a recipient of the Royal Society of Canada's Bancroft Award, to name but a few honours. Peltier is also a dedicated mentor and teacher. More than 30 doctoral students have received their PhD degrees under his supervision.

Peltier will receive the award during a ceremony in Philadelphia April 29.

Breaking ground at UTM

BY JANE STIRLING

Shovels in hand, blades gleaming, University of Toronto and U of T Mississauga community members, politicians and hospital representatives celebrated the groundbreaking Oct. 23 for an innovative facility that will train the future community health leaders of the next generation.

The \$37-million four-storey Health Sciences Complex will house the Mississauga Academy of Medicine, research laboratories and the graduate biomedical communications program and is scheduled to open in the summer of 2011. The Mississauga Academy of Medicine, which will welcome 54 medical students in its first-year class, is a partnership among U of T Mississauga, U of T's Faculty of

Medicine, Trillium Health Centre and Credit Valley Hospital.

a prosperous SOCIETY "This is a great day for the University of Toronto Mississauga and for the entire university," said President David Naylor. "It is truly exciting to be embarking on a project of such magnitude and importance to health care in this province and we are very grateful to the Government of Ontario for its generous support."

Earlier this year, the provincial government provided \$15.6 million in capital funding over three years and announced additional medical school positions at U of T. The expansion is part of a provincewide initiative to increase the number of physicians across Ontario.

"The University of Toronto Mississauga is adding another jewel to its crown," said Professor lan Orchard, vicepresident and principal of U of T Mississauga. "The

University of Toronto has trained close to 50 per cent of the family physicians in Ontario and 25 per cent of all the specialist physicians in Canada," said Professor Catharine Whiteside, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and vice-provost (relations with healthcare institutions).



Health Sciences Complex, with its academy of medicine, is yet one more example of the

community cando spirit on this campus that enables us to build such an outstanding environment for

success."

By 2014, the Mississauga Academy of Medicine will have a total of 216 students enrolled in the four-year program. The Mississauga academy will be U of T's fourth medical academy -- the other three are located in Toronto. The academies are the Faculty of Medicine's network of sites that provide an academic home to MD students while they are doing their clinical training.

"Since the early 1980s, the

"With this groundbreaking, health professional education and the promise of improved access to health care in Mississauga take a giant leap forward. The group of MDs who will train here in Mississauga will be part of an innovative partnership with the outstanding local healthcare providers. We are committed to providing the next generations of health leaders who will practise in this region."

Construction on the Health Sciences Complex, designed by Kongats Architects, began in the summer of 2009. The 5,960-square-metre building will have classrooms, computer and biosciences laboratories and office space as well as the Mississauga academy and the biomedical communications



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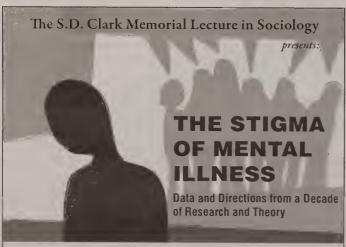
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Professor Bernice A. Pescosolido

Distinguished & Chancellor's Professor of Sociology Indiana University

Bernice Pescosolido's research agenda on health, illness and healing addresses how social networks connect individuals to their communities and to institutional structures, specifically targeting health care services, stigma and suicide research. Prof. Pescosolido initiated the first major, national study of stigma of mental illness in U.S. adults in over 40 years, as well as a 10-year replication. She spearheaded the first National Stigma Study among children in 2002 and is now leading a team of researchers in the first international study of the issue.

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 6:00 PM

George Ignatieff Theatre
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Free Admission • General Seating

There will be a reception prior to the lecture at 4:30 PM Main Lounge, Faculty Club 41 Willcocks Street

For more information, please call Linda Gardiner at 416-946-4058.



Wild Things at Woodsworth



Professor Emeritus David Nimmo of Woodsworth College's academic bridging program has one of the liveliest office doors on the St. George campus. As gateway to the former home of the Margaret Fletcher Daycare, it features creatures from Maurice Sendak's classic book, Where the Wild Things Are. The children's book is now a popular movie.

Celebrating top-notch biomedical science

continued from page 1 significance of medical research breakthroughs early, in this case, 11 years before the Nobels. It's especially gratifying to have two Gairdner winners also win a Nobel Prize during our 50th anniversary."

The awards recognize and reward the achievements of medical researchers whose work contributes significantly to improving the quality of human life. Since the first awards were made in 1959, the Gairdner Awards have become Canada's foremost international awards. Of the 298 individuals from 13 countries, including 42 Canadians, who have received Gairdner

Awards, 73 have subsequently gone on to win a Nobel Prize.

The Gairdner Foundation is also the only national organization that consistently brings the world's best biomedical researchers to Canada to share their ideas and work with

scientists across the country.

The symposium will culminate with a Gairdner/Nobel Public Forum at Convocation Hall on the evening of Oct. 30. Visit **www.gairdner.org** for schedule and registration.

NSERC Synergy Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 internationally," said David Major, principal of Geosyntec.

"Professor Edwards exemplifies the intellectual curiosity and collaborative spirit that true innovation requires," said Professor **Paul Young**, vice-president (research). "Her work on biodegradation and bioremediation is cutting edge and her collaboration with Geosyntec will have impact around the world. I'm delighted to see her recognized with the Synergy Award."



Harp music blossoms on campus

BY TAMMY THORNE

Although cherry blossom season is usually in springtime, on Sunday, Nov. 1, there will be blossoms at the Faculty of Music during the unveiling of a new Princess Sakura concert harp, recently donated to the faculty by the Aoyama Harp Company of Japan.

Sakura means cherry blossom and the Princess Sakura harp is covered in a beautiful cherry blossom design, detailed in gleaming walnut wood. It is the latest model from Aoyama.

ARTSZONE

www.arts.

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A free concert will celebrate the unveiling as the harp is played by worldrenowned faculty harpist **Judy**

Loman.
Loman, perhaps
Canada's foremost
harpist, will be
joined by her former
and famous pupil,
Mariko Anraku.
Anraku is currently
associate principal
harp of the
Metropolitan Opera
Orchestra in New
York. This is only the
second time they
have played together.

"Up until now, I've only listened to her," Loman said, with a laugh.

Arguably, the star of the Aoyama harp celebration performance will be the harp itself. Loman said the lovely instrument is a welcome addition to the faculty's collection.

"We have two very bad harps. They are falling apart. I was aching for a new one for the faculty. So, when Mariko invited me to play in Japan, I thought I would ask Mr. Aoyama if he might be interested in renting the harp to buy," said Loman.

With Anraku acting as a translator, Loman made her pitch, perfectly. In the end, Aoyama

decided to donate the \$30,000 instrument. (Harps range in price from \$25,000 to \$70,000 for the more ornate versions.)

"It's a wonderful, wonderful thing," said Loman.

"It has a really lovely sound with a beautiful upper register and a nice ring to it," Loman said, noting that the wood and the shape of the harp makes all the difference. "This one seems to have been made just perfectly."

Attendees at the celebratory performance will enjoy the expressive sounds as the new harp is put through its paces.

"I chose the Haydn for the opening piece because it is one of the happiest pieces I know and I am very happy to get this harp," Loman said. "And, I know I'm pushing it a bit for Christmas, but I wanted to include these Six

Noels by Tournier because they just sound lovely on the harp."

The centrepiece of the day will be a special arrangement for two harps that Loman did just for this day, as a gift to Aoyama.

"I did an arrangement of Sakura — a Japanese folk tune that means cherry blossoms — for two harps that Mariko and I will play. We are dedicating it to Mr. Aoyama, along with a special gift

from the harp department at the celebration ceremony."

Loman, who has been playing the harp since she was five, is a recipient of Canada's Juno Award for best classical recording and the Canada Council's Grand Prix du disque Canadien. She currently supervises two master's and one doctoral student (of the eight harp students) at the faculty and has been teaching at U of T for almost 40 years.

For more information: www.music. utoronto.ca/events/aoyama.



Professor and harpist Judy Loman

Strong U of T showing at RSC symposium

BY PAUL FRAUMENI

U of T scientists and graduate students had a high profile at the Royal Society of Canada's annual research symposium on Oct. 16. And this year's symposium had an extra feature — a focus on helping young women to move

into science.
The sold-out symposium, entitled The Universe and Our Place In It in honour of the International Year of Astronomy, was held at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa and kicked off the federal government's national science and technology week.

"This symposium is held every year to bring the Royal Society membership together but in recent years there has been considerable outreach to attract members of the public, especially students," said U of T geology professor and chair of the symposium organizing committee, **Andrew Miall**. "This year we had about 120 young women from high schools across Canada as par

young women from high schools across Canada as part of our effort to bring more women into science."

As part of the theme of attracting women to science, Miall said the organizing committee made an extra effort to feature women scientists among the symposium's speakers. They included U of T geologist **Barbara Sherwood Lollar**, who spoke on her specialty of astrobiology, and physicists Victoria Kaspi of McGill University and Manuella Vincter of Carleton University.

Graduate students were also included in the day's proceedings as part of the theme of connecting with young people. Two of the graduate student speakers had U of T roots — **Bryce Croll**, currently in astronomy, and

former astronomy graduate student **Gurtina Besla**, who is now at Harvard University.

"The high school students responded extremely well," Miall said. "A number of the teachers who accompanied them told me they were enormously excited by the symposium. They thought it was one of the best things to have happened in a long time. And the trip gave the students an opportunity to see their nation's capital."

Other U of T faculty involved in the symposium included two professors from astronomy — departmental chair and organizing committee member **Peter Martin** and **Roberto Abraham**, who spoke on the life cycle of galaxies.

Miall, who will complete a two-year term as president of the RSC's Academy of Science in November, also organized RSC symposia on energy in 2003 and on water in 2006.

U of T now recycles coffee cups



BY TAMMY THORNE

U of T has improved its waste diversion rate again this year. And, **Stan Szwagiel**, manager of grounds services, says things are only getting better.

"We now divert 65.7 per cent of all the non-hazardous waste produced on campus. This means almost 70 per cent of our waste is diverted from landfill sites through one of our many recycling programs," said Szwagiel. "That 65.7 per cent, I didn't do that — the U of T community did that. They are the ones who should be applauded because they are doing a great job."

The newest recycling program on campus is for paper coffee cups.

Historically, paper coffee cups lined with a plastic coating could not be recycled in any university (or city) program. However, the city now collects (relatively) clean cups as part of its recycling effort.

Szwagiel said that during an annual waste audit about four years ago staff noticed more and more coffee cups in the garbage.

"We always get people who really want to recycle those cups and put them in our paper program or in the can and bottle bin but those are not legitimate programs for coffee cups and our contractors have to sift through and take out what doesn't belong," he explained.

Now, U of T has secured a program where the cups (without lids and cardboard sleeves) will be taken to a wet strength mill where cups are pulped and recycled.

Szwagiel said an extended process is required for cups compared to standard paper.

"Paper with that additional bond needs to be soaked longer than normal paper. The way paper is processed and recycled is to soak it until it becomes mush, like porridge, so coffee cups need a doubling or tripling of that soaking time so the paper is able to delaminate from the plastic."

U of T's waste compartments are colour coded and new purple stickers have been added this month to accommodate the new coffee cup program.

Coffee cup recycling replaces the polystyrene compartment in the four-bin receptacles, which had to be discontinued due to the closure of the only GTA processing plant.

The new bins acknowledge that coffee cups still make up a large proportion campus waste, although reusable mugs are the best choice for reducing the environmental impact.

"Facitlites and services handed out more than 6,600 reusable mugs in 2009, a practice that's has been ongoing since the 90s," Szwagiel said. "In addition to reducing waste, using a reusable mug will get you a discount at many coffee outlets."

The composting program on campus will also be improved this year. U of T has been composting food waste since the beginning of the recycling program in 1991 but it will now be expand-ing into the dining room.

"We were always collecting scraps from the kitchen but now we want to move into the dining room itself and collect the scraps that customers are leaving," Szwagiel said. "We also want to move to biodegradable takeout containers so everything will simply go into one container to be composted."

U of T's waste diversion goal is 70 per cent by 2010.

"If all our programs were used, we could divert more than 95 per cent of the university's waste," said Szwagiel. "And while a high diversion rate is admirable, our main goal is to reduce the waste the university produces."

Visit **www.fs.utoronto. ca/recycle.htm** for more information.



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LECTURES AT THE LEADING EDGE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Peter David Clark

Chemistry, University of Calgary The Carbon-Sulfur System: Molecular Evolution in the Primordial World and Opportunities for Improving Energy

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

César Vega Morales

Mars Botanical

Molecular Gastronomy: Eggs, Texture and Energies of Activation

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Ron S. Dembo

Zerofootprint

Climate Change and What We Can Do About It

All lectures will begin at 12:30 pm and are open to the public. Wallberg Building, 200 College Street, Rm. 116 (N.E. Corner of College and St. George Streets)

www.chem-eng.utoronto.ca



Campus police and student hockey players face-off against NHL Alumni



Campus police constables Sean Tompa (left) and John Sinclair (right) will team up with U of T students like Darby Smith for a charity match against NHL alumni Nov. 10.

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

When fourth-year St. Michael's college student Darby Smith first picked up a hockey stick at the age of three, she never imagined that one day that she would go head-to-head with NHL legends like Glenn Anderson and Dale Hawerchuk. But that's exactly what she'll be doing as part of a Nov. 10 charity tournament to raise money for

On Nov. 10, Smith will be poised with her hockey stick as the puck is dropped at Varsity Arena. It's a dream come true for Smith to play against the Professional Hockey Alumni.

Variety Village Children's

"It's intimidating but somewhat exciting at the same time because I have a love of

the game just like they do. It's just exciting to skate beside them. I'm really excited," said Smith, who plays for the Varsity Blues women's hockey team.

The event is being organized by campus police constables John Sinclair and Sean Tompa. The game will feature 16 Hockey Hall of Fame players and U of T alumna and former Canadian national women's team member Lori Dupuis. Renowned sportscaster Rod Black of CTV will emcee and referee the event. The University of Toronto team will feature members of the campus police and students from the faculties of engineering and pharmacy.

Variety Village is a charitable organization that caters to children with special needs and their families. They offer a number of programs that

work towards integrating children into society and improving their quality of life.

"We were trying to reach out to students, faculty and staff and were trying to find an event that would work for everyone. Being in Canada we thought that hockey would be a good choice," said Sinclair. "The main purpose is to raise money for Variety Village and for their athletic facility for children with special needs. Our second purpose is to reach out to the community. It's the first time this event has ever been done at the university."

Tompa is passionate about hockey and played for Pennsylvania State University's team as a student.

"In my mind most of these players are legends and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity. That's why we involved students who would never get a chance like this. We're hoping to raise \$15,000."

Tickets are on sale now: • St. George Campus: \$10 tickets are available at the campus police office located at 21 Sussex Ave.

• Scarborough Campus: \$10 tickets are available at the campus police office located at 1265 Military Trail, Science Wing, Room 304.

If you can not attend the game you may donate a \$10 ticket to a child from Variety Village who can attend instead.

For more information visit: www.campuspolice. utoronto.ca/AssetFactory. aspx?did=1079.

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WELCOME TO THE 2009 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU

for last year's milestone, now let's try to beat it!

Our \$867,000 tri-campus achievement is a new record. We can be proud that in the midst of a recession our community of 1,200 faculty, staff, student and retired donors gave more.

United Way Employee Campaign Chair Molly Yeomans

Scott Parish is a smart and engaging young graduate who has just completed his master's degree in industrial relations and human resources. I interviewed Scott about his work with homeless youth. He does it through the University



Molly Yeomans

of Toronto Volunteer Consulting Group, an organization that brings together students to provide pro bono consulting to the notfor-profit world. Scott and his colleagues have been assisting a United Way agency that helps teenagers and young adults called Youth Without Shelter.

It is featured in this special United Way edition of the Bulletin. I have told the stories of two young men brought back from the brink of hopelessness, abandonment, self-destructive behaviour and futures with little prospect for a decent life. When I interviewed Scott he mentioned each bedroom at Youth Without Shelter is painted and

decorated to please the individual who will reside there — and that although the word "shelter" is used to describe this place, it is actually "home" for the young people who come through its doors.

I also had the opportunity to interview an outstanding social scientist, U of T professor Scot Wortley, who has studied patterns of youth crime for over a decade.

More than 200 United Way Toronto agencies, including Youth Without Shelter, cover the broadest range of human needs and provide services and support for the most vulnerable people in our city - and at our Mississauga campus, for the people in Peel.

A new campaign brings a new opportunity: for the University of Toronto it is the goal to break through the \$900,000 threshold. The average gift is \$10 by payroll deduction for every paycheque or \$120 dollars for the year. If everyone contributed that amount we would raise more than a million and a half dollars! As Barbara Track from Woodsworth College reminded me \$10 is less than what most people spend on coffee for the week.

On behalf of our Leadership Chair, Professor Michael R. Marrus, our dedicated volunteers and administration, I ask that we once again mobilize caring people to support the campaign, invest in our community, and thereby influence the common good of us all.

United Way

Cheerleader Top Centre (clockwise): Katarina Cadete, Lisa Melymuk, Monica Bichowski, Megan Lund, Yulina Chun, Ashley Jangkamolkulchai, Silvia Vlad, Chiara Cautillo. Left/Cheerleaders Lifting: Lindsay Britton, Kathleen Lesperance, Nancy Salituro. Centre/Cheerleaders Lifting: Ksenija Stupar, Christina Nowak, Ivana D'Imperio. Right/Cheerleaders Lifting: Mollie Wincott, Emma Dowling, Megan Orszulik.

Leadership Chair Professor Michael R. Marrus

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to last year's United Way campaign.

Our total of \$867,000 was a new record for U of T and a special achievement. We can be proud that our community of just under 1,200 donors responded to the campaign and to the volunteers who worked enthusiastically to spread awareness about the great work done by United Way - and filled up the coffers!

Last year's results put us in the top 1.5 percent for money raised by individual workplace campaigns out of a total of more than 900 private and public sector organizations and businesses who give their employees an opportunity to contribute.

Hats off especially to the retirees, not just because I have recently joined their ranks, but because they raised an astonishing \$180,000 or 21 percent of the total. Also, thank you to the 600 people who chose to donate by payroll deduction. It

requires less administration and is easily renewed.

Still, even with this great success, we are only at nine percent participation. When you consider that the larger community and taxpayers support our university 365 days a year - might we not, as a community, seek to do a bit better? The way forward is for everyone who can to make a donation and support the largest provider of health and social services in Toronto.

It is obvious to all that the need has not declined. Although there are glimmers of hope for economic revival the recession continues to affect families who were struggling in better times and who now find themselves under additional pressure. Add to that people who are now unemployed and you can see that the need for support is vital.

Please consider filling out your pledge form and making a donation this year. With your help, we just might push through to \$900,000 for the



Michael Marrus

first time in our history.

Our volunteers dedicate their time and energy by talking to their colleagues about United Way and by organizing all the special events: book sales, bake sales, silent auctions, dodge ball tournaments, pumpkin carving contests, the CN Tower Cup Challenge, etc. Supporting their efforts supports our community's reach beyond the campus and onto the streets and into the homes of our fellow citizens.

We look forward to the renewed generosity of all current subscribers and to new support.

Hanniness Is Winning a Prize



Right: Philomena Phillips, Left: daughter Monica, Centre: Four Seasons Hotel chef concierge, Liloo Alim. Philomena Phillips fron Woodsworth College won the 2008 payroll deduction draw — one night of deluxe accommodations at the Four Seasons Hotel Yorkville.



YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER

YWS, a United Way agency located in Rexdale, is an emergency residence and shelter for homeless young people ages 16 to 24. The shelter was established 23 years ago by a group of teachers and guidance counsellors who were frustrated with the lack of safe emergency housing and support programs for homeless youth. The agency has 30 emergency beds and 20 long-term beds for the Stay in School program.

The statistics are startling: 65,000 young people are homeless in Canada, 10,000 in Toronto alone. The largest contributing factor to youth homelessness is family breakdown. There are more men than women by 10

percent and they come from every ethnic, religious and socioeconomic background.

The impact of the recession is being felt here but the staff and the support programs they provide (everything from shelter and food to life-skills workshops, referrals, clothing and hygiene products, counselling and educational planning) can change lives and build new futures.

Judy Leroux, Development Manager for YWS says, "Stays are longer in this economy. You see a lot of heartbreak and a lot of success. Many times homelessness is a hidden problem not instantly recognized. In school if you look at the kid next to you — you don't know whether or

not they are homeless."

Asked what the overall impact of this United Way agency's work is on the larger community, Wendy Horton, Executive Director for YWS, explained the services can be more readily appreciated on an individual basis.

"The impact lies in the families that have been reunited; the youth that have been saved from violence, drugs and abuse; the pregnant teens who found a comforting place to decide whether they were able to raise their child and received counselling; and the young people who have, despite the odds, completed school, found jobs and established themselves as productive members of the community."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

TWO YOUNG MEN WHO LIVE AT YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER

KHANH NGUYEN: AGE 23 ADRIFT WITHOUT FAMILY SUPPORT



"I was renting a place with a friend in Hamilton — he stopped paying rent and I was evicted. Going home is not an option for me. I arrived at YWS in May of this year and have been in the Stay in School program since the beginning of June. I had nothing to turn to and no one to turn to. I came to YWS through the emergency side. I was completely anti-social. I didn't have any focus when I first arrived — now I am more on the right track headed towards something. My first goal was to finish school. YWS gave me the necessities I needed to go back to school.

Currently I attend the Emery Adult Learning Centre and am completing Grade 12. I know that this sounds like something beyond me, but I have an interest in corporations and the business world and I want to go to university and become a lawyer."

business world and I want to go to lawyer."





Ricardo first came to YWS at the age of 16. He says it has taken six years for him to turn his life around. He has been a part of a youth gang exit program called Breaking the Cycle, which involves becoming a peer mentor to encourage youth not to get involved in gangs. This program partners with YWS to change lives.

"I was a rebel involved in gang activity. I had family issues and only found happiness in getting into trouble. I was arrested a few times. When I first came to YWS I kept doing bad things. I was disrespectful to authority and to staff. They saw through to the guy hiding inside — the me I wanted to be. Many times in my life I have wondered if I was going to live to see tomorrow. Staff case managers at YWS, Brad and Maria, became my friends. Brad told me about the personal stuff that he had been through. Another case manager, Kim, helped me get into a program for school drop-outs.

It took six years but now I am enrolled in the culinary arts program at George Brown College. I am working towards getting my CCC (Certified Chef de Cuisine) and my Red Seal Chef certificate so that I can work anywhere in the world. Besides cooking, I like to write poetry."

"I have a little girl named Jamara. She is turning 3. I thought I wouldn't be there for her the way my life was going. I hope that can all change."

Criminology Professor Studies Troubled Youth and Evaluates Youth Programs:

Professor Scot Wortley of the Centre of Criminology says that programs that have a major impact are those that are intensive. "Young people involved in gangs, drugs and seriously adrift need mentoring, a home, a family. Those programs, according to the research, have a better chance of success than short-term, non-intensive interventions."

PHOTO: LIAM SHARP FOR EDGE MAGAZINE

Students Provide Expertise to Youth Without Shelter:

Scott Parish has just completed his master's degree in industrial relations and human resources and is a member of the University of Toronto Volunteer Consulting Group. This group of graduate and undergraduate students meets once a month to learn about advising not-for-profit organizations. One of their projects was to assist Youth Without Shelter in its fundraising efforts. Scott says that experience provided exposure to a completely different world. "Seeing the shelter environment and meeting the homeless teenagers and young adults who are about the same age as we are was an eye-opener. There are many people who have not been given the foundation for life and for living that so many of us easily take for granted."



Left to right: Eric Chen, Scott Parish, Yin Ying Zhang, Heyse Li, Aaron Rodericks. Missing: Jessica Yang.

LET'S BUILD ON OUR SUCCESS BY PULLING TOGETHER

Giving Made Easy:



Your pledge form will arrive by the end of October or the beginning of November sent to you via campus mail. Fill out your pledge form and mail it to: U of T United Way Campaign office in the return envelope provided

You can donate by:

- Payroll Deduction
- · Credit Card
- Cheque(s)

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E-mail: **unitedway@utoronto.ca** from your U of T e-mail address with the total amount of your donation.



It will be divided by 12 for your monthly payroll deduction starting January 2010 and ending December 2010. Your carbon copy of the pledge form will be mailed to you.

Make a payroll deduction commitment by November 30 and you will be entered to win a dinner for two at Studio Café Four Seasons Hotel Yorkville. *Our thanks to Four Seasons Hotels for their generous sponsorship*.

tax chart

Your Gift of	Income Range			
	\$37,178 -\$74,357		\$74,358 - \$120,887	
	Total Tox Savings	Actual Cost	Totol Tax Savings	Actual Cost
\$100	\$21.05	\$78.95	\$24.44	\$75.56
\$200	\$42.10	\$157.90	\$48.88	\$151.12
\$500	\$162.58	\$337.42	\$188.10	\$311.90
\$1,000	\$363	\$637	\$420	\$580
\$1,250	\$464	\$786	\$536	\$714
\$1,772	\$673	\$1,099	\$778	\$994
\$2,500	\$966	\$1,534	\$1,116	\$1,384
\$2,984	\$1,160	\$1,824	\$1,341	\$1,643
\$5,000	\$1,970	\$3,030	\$2,277	\$2,723
\$7,500	\$2,974	\$4,526	\$3,437	\$4,063
\$10,000	\$3,978	\$6,022	\$4,597	\$5,403

We accept all pledge forms up to and including December 31, 2009.

Call Employee Campaign Chair Molly Yeomans at 416-946-0245 or e-mail unitedway@utoronto.ca for assistance with your pledge form, questions or comments.

University of Toronto
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Our thanks to United Way Toronto: Frances Lankin, Melanie Bloch, Anne Erickson, Althea Wray Ann Tortolano

"U of T is more than a string of campuses, it's a community of people that cares about our city. When you compete for the Climb Cup or give to United Way with every paycheque, you're joining our campaign to build a better city. It's because you give and because you care that we can make a difference."

- **Frances Lankin,**President and CEO,
United Way Toronto

BIG PRIZES



This year with the generous support of the University of Toronto Bookstore, you could win your own personal library or expand the one that you already have! Every employee who makes a donation of \$1,000 or more will be entered in a draw for a \$1,000 U of T Bookstore gift certificate. All retired colleagues who make a donation will be entered in a draw for a \$500 Bookstore gift certificate. Draw deadline for pledges is December 31 2009

The outstanding student leader for the 2009 campaign will be awarded a \$500 Bookstore gift certificate.

CN TOWER CHALLENGE





Robert Wighton, a student at the Department of History, is taking the challenge!

"As a University of Toronto student and a citizen of this wonderful city, I am excited to partake in such a unique event as the 2009 United Way CN Tower Stair Climb. This will be my first time climbing the CN Tower and fundraising for United Way because I feel that it is very important for students, such as myself, to demonstrate that anyone can make a difference by getting involved with organizations and events just like this one. On behalf of the U of T Nona Macdonald Visitors Centre, I will be climbing as fast and raising as much money as I can for United Way."

ANNUAL SWAP SHOP SALE:

Tuesday November 24th, Wednesday November 25th, Thursday November 26th. Three day bonanza sale — everything priced to fly out the door.
Used books, desks, filing cabinets, chairs and much more!

All proceeds to United Way



Some years ago, I



ANGELS AMONG US

helped to run a tenant union and advocacy organization in Madison, Wisconsin, where I organized low-income residents of federally funded housing projects. We were supported by United Way, as was the neighbourhood centre in which we were housed. I also volunteered to work and play with children in a battered women's shelter, also supported by United Way. It was in that period that I came to know United Way as the essential partner for efforts to assist people with limited means or who were experiencing traumatic transformations in their lives. I watched those I worked with

confidence. Since then I've used United Way to manage my portfolio of community giving the way some use money managers and mutual funds to manage their savings. I know that if I give as much as I can

on a monthly basis, that United Way will take it from there, doing the research for me and flowing my donations to reputable and well-run service organizations that make a difference. It's simply the best investment I can make in my community and my fellow citizens.

Gage Averill Vice-Principal Academic and University of Toronto Mississauga



and small.

transform themselves, take

control of their lives and gain

The United Way is a celebration of the strength of our communities. Newcomers can take comfort in knowing that community resources exist to help them settle in this great city. I still remember the feeling of being newly arrived and the importance of community support during those challenging times. The health and social service agencies funded by the United Way bring enormous benefits to families large

I know that U of T Scarborough is a strong and generous community as well. Faculty, staff and students don't shy away from giving back. We support our local communities in many ways, from hosting local celebrations to offering mentorship programs to serving meals to needy families. I am honoured to lend my support to this worthy cause that continues to positively impact our diverse neighbourhoods year in and year out.

Professor Franco Vaccarino Principal, University of Toronto Scarborough Vice-President, University of Toronto



To someone to whom so much has been given, supporting the United Way is a no-brainer. I am offered the opportunity as an individual to contribute to the collective, to provide a hand up where there is particular need and even to benefit personally from that sharing. I have seen my support for independent living reflected in the loving group home where my sister-in-law with Down syndrome enjoyed a full and active

life. I have experienced first-hand how the programs and services delivered by a United Way agency to seniors with Alzheimer's or dementia sustained, with great care and dignity, the daily function of my mother. I am grateful to know, further, that our family members were only two of many to be touched by the enabling generosity of community.

Lynne C. Howarth Professor, Faculty of Information

Simply put, supporting the United Way makes good sense: this is Canada's premier charitable organization addressing the needs of the disadvantaged, the dispossessed and the distressed among us. As a pediatrician, I am most impressed by the enormous number of programs supported by the United Way from maternal health, through pregnancy and throughout



childhood. These programs help to level the playing field for Canada's uniquely diverse population.

Denis Daneman, MB **BCh FRCPC** Chair, Department of

Paediatrics — University of Toronto Paediatrician-in-Chief - The Hospital for Sick Children **RS McLaughlin Foundation** Chair in Paediatrics



complex needs, from job training to after-school tutoring to family counselling to



community agencies was key to helping hard-working, disadvantaged Canadians overcome barriers and achieve success in a

very real way.

Laurie Stephens Director, Media Relations and Stakeholder Communications



We know that countless people are being hit hard during these pressing economic times. It would be



wonderful to see our community lift its giving during this difficult

Cheryl Misak Vice-President and Provost University of Toronto



At a time of worsening conditions for many individuals, families and neighborhoods, the **United Way**

not only supports essential social services and programs, but provides inspired, strategic leadership in forging solutions. I am particularly impressed by the way it has commissioned innovative research into the conditions, changing face and social location of poverty in Toronto and uses that research to shape advocacy, policy and funding.

Bruce Kidd, O.C., Ph.D. Professor and Dean **Faculty of Physical Education** and Health

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Insomnia's memory loss fixed by blocking protein, say U of T researchers

BY PAUL CANTIN

The cloud of absent-mindedness that follows sleepless nights may be cleared by blocking an enzyme in the brain, according to researchers at the Faculty of Medicine.

In the current issue of Nature, Professor Min Zhuo of physiology and his colleagues, Professors Miles Housley of the University of Glasgow and Ted Abel of the University of Pennsylvania, report that the cognitive deficits such as memory loss caused by sleep deprivation may be reversed by reducing the concentration of a specific enzyme in the part of the brain key to memory and learning, known as the hippocampus.

Sleep deprivation plagues millions of people around

the globe and can cause both long-term and short-term memory challenges. Using mouse models, Zhuo and his colleagues noted that insomnia affects an important

TOWARDS

a prosperous

SOCIETY

molecular pathway
in the hippocampus. The sleepdeprived mice had
increased levels of

the enzyme known as PDE4 (phosphodiesterase-4), as well as reduced levels of a molecule known as cAMP (Cyclic adenosine monophosphate).

"The molecule cAMP has a crucial role in forming the new synaptic connections required for learning," Zhuo said. "By inhibiting or blocking PDE4 in sleep-deprived mice, we were able to increase cAMP concentration." Not only did blocking PDE4 and raising cAMP con-

centration improve learning, it also counteracted memory loss due to lack of sleep.

The finding raises the prospect of new PDE4-blocking, cAMP-enhancing thera-

pies that could mitigate the impact of sleeplessness on humans and improve memory.

Other researchers who collaborated on this paper include, Christopher Vecsey, Devan Jaganath, Robbert Havekes, Andrew Daniels, Mathieu Wimmer and Ted Huang (University of Pennsylvania), George Baillie and Kim Brown (Faculty of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow) and Giannina Descalzi, Susan Kim, Tao Chen and Yu-Ze Shang (Department of Physiology, University of Toronto).



Fruit flies lacking certain pheromones are attractive to flies of other species and to both sexes.

Absent pheromones turn flies into lusty Lotharios

BY NICOLLE WAHL

When Professor Joel
Levine's team genetically
tweaked fruit flies so that they
didn't produce certain
pheromones, they triggered a
sexual tsunami in their
University of Toronto
Mississauga laboratory. In fact,
they produced bugs so irresistible that normal male fruit
flies attempted to mate with
pheromone-free males and
even females from a different
species — generally a no-no in
the fruit fly dating scene.

The study, published in the Oct. 15 issue of *Nature*, points to a link between sex, species recognition and a specific chemical mechanism and is part of Levine's larger research into the genetic basis of social behaviour.

"This is important not only from the point of view of understanding social dynamics but it's also fundamental biology because these pheromones provide recognition cues that facilitate reproductive behaviour," said Levine, an assistant professor of biology. "Lacking these chemical signals eliminated barriers to mating. It turned out that males of other species were attracted to females who didn't have these signals, so that seemed to eliminate the species barrier."

In this study, they focused on recognition — how individual *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit flies) know what their species is and what their sex is. While previous studies had suggested that pheromones played an important role, Levine's team decided to genetically eliminate a certain class of these chemicals, called cuticular hydrocarbon pheromones, to determine their particular effect.

The researchers found that female flies bred without the hydrocarbons were *melanogaster* Marilyn Monroes to normal males. But the effect didn't stop there — males lacking the

hydrocarbons were also sexually irresistible. In fact, females lacking the hydrocarbons were so sexy that males of other *Drosophila* species courted

When the researchers treated females bred without the hydrocarbons with a female aphrodisiac, it restored the barrier preventing sex between species, suggesting that a single compound can provide species identity.

Levine stressed that while pheromones are part of the human mating dance, the cues for attraction are far more complex in our species.

"... we may have a more complex way of assessing other individuals and classifying them and determining how we're going to relate to them than a fly does."

- Professor Joseph Levine

"Although I am no expert on human pheromones, there is evidence that men and women may discriminate odours from the same sex or other sexes differently, and there's even some evidence that how an individual discriminates those odours may reflect their gender preference," he said. "We may rely more on the visual system and we may have a more complex way of assessing other individuals and classifying them and determining how we're going to relate to them than a fly

"But what we're looking at is a spectrum across biology of a tendency to understand how others relate to ourselves. It's clearly an issue that humans are caught up in — it's in our art, like *Madame Butterfly*, and it's in our newspapers, in terms of sports issues like the recent controversy about the sexual identify of the South African runner Caster Semenya."

Geologists point to outer space as source of the Earth's mineral riches



BY SEAN BETTAM

According to a new study by geologists at the University of Toronto and the University of Maryland, the wealth of some minerals that lie in the rock beneath the Earth's surface may be extraterrestrial in origin.

"The extreme temperature at which the Earth's core formed more than four billion years ago would have completely stripped any precious metals from the rocky crust and deposited them in the core," said Professor **James Brenan** of geology at U of T and co-author of the study published in *Nature Geoscience* Oct. 18.

"So, the next question is why are there detectable, even mineable, concentrations of precious metals such as platinum and rhodium in the rock portion of the Earth today? Our results indicate that they could not have ended up there by any known internal process and instead must have been added back, likely by a 'rain' of extraterrestrial debris such as comets and meteorites."

Geologists have long speculated that four-and-a-half billion years ago, the Earth was a cold mass of rock mixed with iron metal that was melted by the heat generated from the impact of massive planet-sized objects, allowing the iron to separate from the rock and form the Earth's core. Brenan and colleague William McDonough of the University of Maryland recreated the extreme pressure and temperature of this process, subjecting a similar mixture to temperatures above 2,000 C and measured the composition of the resulting rock and iron.

Because the rock became void of the metal in the process, the scientists speculate that the same would have occurred when the Earth was formed and that some sort of external source—such as a rain of extraterrestrial material—contributed to the presence of some precious metals in Earth's outer rocky portion today.

"The notion of extraterrestrial rain may also explain another mystery, which is how the rock portion of the Earth came to have hydrogen, carbon and phosphorous — the essential components for life, which were likely lost during Earth's violent beginning."

The research was funded with the support of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and a NASA cosmochemistry grant.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How is U of T ninth?

It is reported in the Oct. 8 issue of the Bulletin that "Global academics rank U of T ninth in the world." But, try as I might, I can find on the linked website only the - somewhat less encouraging - news that U of T is ranked 29th,



www.topuniversities.com/

university/622/university-of-toronto.

Am I missing something?

PAUL FRANKS

PHILOSOPHY AND CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Response

The Times Higher Education — QS World University Rankings asked nearly 10,000 academics around the world to rank 621 universities worldwide — excluding their own — by reputation. Their rankings were recorded for each of five subject areas: the arts and humanities; engineering and IT; life sciences and biomedicine; natural sciences; and social sciences.

The academics' subject rankings were combined to form an overall peer review score, with weighting given to ensure responses from each of three major regions: the Americas; Europe; and the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific.

U of T placed ninth worldwide in that peer review. By subject, U of T placed

- eighth worldwide in Engineering
- 11th worldwide in Life Sciences
- 15th worldwide in Social Sciences
- 11th worldwide in Arts and Humanities
- 14th worldwide in Natural Sciences

Those results and those of other universities are visible under the heading 2009 Subject Rankings at

www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/ world-university-rankings/2009/results.

The Times Higher Education — QS World University Rankings also publishes and promotes what purports to be an overall "ranking" (U of Tranks 29th) for universities that is distinct from and based only in part on the survey of academic peers mentioned above. This overall ranking is derived, using five measures that draw on a mix of survey (academic peers and employers) and institutionally submitted data. We have specific concerns regarding the comparability of the institutionally submitted data and therefore do not support the overall ranking as a meaningful measure of institutional performance. For instance, there is no globally or even nationally accepted standard for counting faculty or students, leaving universities to submit counts that favour their standing in the rankings formula. Such irregularities may account for major swings in individual universities' standings from one year to the next, in a manner that is entirely inconsistent with the slow evolution of academic cultures at any given institution. For that reason U of T does not accept this overall ranking as a meaningful

ROBERT STEINER ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT (STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS)

Lessons drawn from baseball limit playoff success

Kudos to R.E. Johnson for creatively applying a baseball metaphor to academia. However I shudder to consider the result if a baseball manager enacted the lessons he claims to have drawn from the sport. With "underpaid and overworked" utility infielders (teaching-stream faculty) acknowledged and rewarded more generously since they "should not have to bear the stigma of being treated as second best" and practice time for designated hitters (research specialists) diverted from hitting to "the essentials" of bunting, base running and turning a double play (communication and teaching skills) I am not sure that playoff success would be forthcoming

Perhaps academic departments have been more attentive to the wisest baseball managers than Johnson gives them credit for. When forming a team, those whose skills are in shortest supply receive the greatest rewards and sometimes exemption from tasks that distract from or underutilize their specialities. Truly "underpaid" utility players eventually receive their due via free agency or contract renegotiation while others accept lower compensation.

Developing more well-rounded team members and reducing compensation disparities is a possible managerial strategy but baseball does not seem to be its best exemplar. Successful American League managers have emphasized defence and pitching over home run hitting but none has stopped making big-ticket designated hitters and other specialists a standard part of their lineups.

PHD CANDIDATE, ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

He Said She Said

The Buzz on Buzzwords

BY PAUL FRAUMENI

Next time you go to a meeting, at some point just say the word "taxonomy" to the group. Even if you don't know what it means or if it has nothing to do with the subject being discussed, say it

Even better, work the word taxonomy into a sentence that declares how "concerned" you are

I don't care if the meeting is about ordering new basketballs or exam scheduling, just say, "What I'm concerned about is taxonomy."

And I guarantee you everyone in the meeting will say, "Yeah, me too. We need to talk about that." And your meeting mates will immediately anoint you as a person on top of all things cool and current.

Why? Because "taxonomy" is the new buzzword in U of T Land.

The first time I heard it, all I could think of was the process of stuffing animals and mounting them on the walls of hunting lodges. I just couldn't figure out why that would be important in a meeting about developing a website.

"Noooo," said a friend later when I asked her why everyone was blabbing about taxonomy. "That's taxidermy."

Turns out taxonomy is the practice of classifying things. It's become useful to the website world, where classification is important in organizing the information being offered on the website. But taxonomy has become so groovy that it can be applied to anything that needs classification — bunching stuff up for a garage sale or deciding who's bringing what to the office party.

Or you can just say it. For no reason. It's that cool.

But beware — buzzwords are fleeting. One minute they're hot, next minute they're as out of fashion as leather ties. And I suspect taxonomy is giving way now to what I perceive to be even hotter — "elevator pitch."

This is an old one that is going through a renaissance. Actually, I like it. It's about summing up your business proposal in the time it would take you to take the average elevator ride with the person to whom you are making the pitch. So, instead of a 40-page report or two-hour meeting

with your boss, you just boil it down to "O.K., here's the idea — we need more money to get a better projector and this will help us teach more effectively." Can you imagine if U of T didn't have to do crazy-long reports or if all our meetings were 30 seconds? Wow, we wouldn't know what to do with all the extra time.

The other thing about buzz talk is that it's viral (another buzzword). One person uses a word in a certain out-of-the-box (there's another) way and it spreads out over the community like peanut butter (and another). Someone says, "Let's talk offline" and then everyone is. Another wants to talk in a breakfast meeting (gag me!) and then everyone wants to meet at 6:30 a.m.

Then there are those that just won't go away infrastructure, transparency, accountability, synergy, fulsome. Or the one that seems to be unique to U of T — using the word "piece" to refer to an event or topic. "I was at a University College piece on Thursday," "We have to address the nanotechnology piece."

And I have a special problem — I use some that I don't understand.

I said this in a meeting: "I'll call that guy and we'll hook up." My younger colleagues started giggling. They told me the expression "to hook up" now means to, as we used to say in the ancient 1970s, "get it on." I felt as if I were 150 years old.

My biggest fear? One day it'll all consume me and I'll go into Buzz Talk Overdrive.

"Listen, let's talk offline at a breakfast meeting about the elevator pitch we need regarding my concern about taxonomy on the taxation piece. We need to capture the synergy and address the accountability and transparency pieces, especially as they relate to the infrastructure. Then it has to be spread like peanut butter in a fulsome way to the St. George, Mississauga and Scarborough pieces. So, let's hook up on that. No, I don't mean hook up in that way! I mean let's get together."

Paul Fraumeni is the director of communications for the office of the vice-president (research). He shares this space with Caz Zyvatkauskas.



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Individual psychotherapy for adults. Evening hours available. Extended benefits coverage for U of T staff. Dr. Paula Gardner, Registered Psychologist, 114 Maitland St. (Wellesley and Jarvis). 416-570 2057

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Miscellany

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LECTURES

A Few Moments of Mindfulness in the Hospital. Thursday, October 19 Bill Gayner, Mt. Sinai Hospital. 962 Mount Sinai Hospital, 600 University

Ave. Noon. RSVP. mfennessev@ mtsinai.on.ca. or 416-586-4800, ext. 8714. Program in Narrative & Healthcare Humanities

Ethnicity, Social Capital and Immigrant Education: Neighbourhood-Based Institutions and Embedded Social Relations in Los Angeles' Chinatown and Koreatown. Thursday, October 29

Prof. Min Zhou, University of California, Los Angeles. 109N Munk Centre for International Studies. 1 to 3 p.m. Asian Institute, Sociology and Diaspora & Transnational Studies

ICT Policy, Innovation, Commercialization and Careers. Thursday, October 29

Prof. David Wolfe, political science, on ICT Clusters in Canada; Prof. Eugene Fiume, computer science, on Why Monetizing Innovation in Digital Media Is Hard and Getting Harder; David Ticoll, KMDI research fellow, on Why Jane and Johnny Don't Want IT-Related Careers and How to Fix It; moderated by Andriana Ieraci, KMDI adviser on new research projects. Claude T. Bissell Building, 140 St. George St. 4 to 6:15 p.m. Knowledge Media Design Institute

Shakespeare in the 1590s: Inconvenient Untruths. Friday, October 30

Holger Schott Syme, English. 115 Old Victoria College Building. 4 p.m. Reformation & Renaissance Studies and Toronto Renaissance & Reformation Colloquium

The Weighty Matter of the Cosmos. Sunday, November 1

Prof. Richard Bond, Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics. Auditorium, Medical Science Building. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Royal Canadian Institute

'Reprisal' and Excess: Violence Against Jews in Eastern Galicia During Summer 1941. Monday, November 2

Kai Struve, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle-Wittenburg. 108N Munk Centre for International Studies. Noon to 2 p.m. Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine

Maidens, Mothers and Bird-Women: New Light on Ancient Greek and Minoan Customs.

Wednesday, November 4 Prof. Elizabeth Barber, Occidental

College, Los Angeles. 1101 Sandford Fleming Building. 5:15 p.m. Archaeological Association of America, Toronto Society

Becoming European: The Contradictions and Consequences of the Racial Classification of West Indian Colonial Officers in Early 20th-Century British West Africa. Thursday, November 5 Prof. Carina Ray, Fordham University 100A Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George St. 3 to 5 p.m. Diaspora & Transnational Studies

Citizenship and Immigration: Towards a Liberal Model. Thursday, November 5

Prof. Christian Joppke, American University of Paris. Combination Room, Trinity College. 4 to 6 p.m. Joint Initiative in German & European Studies

The Use and Abuse of Systematic Reviews in the Development of Nutritional Policy.

Thursday, November 5 Prof. Robert Heaney, Creighton University, Omaha; 2009 Professor Edna W. Park lecture. 610 Health Sciences Building, 5 p.m. Household Science & Nutritional Sciences Alumni Association

Contemporary Evolutionary Theory: The Conceptual Foundation of Modern Biology. Sunday, November 8

Prof. Paul Thompson, Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology. Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Royal Canadian Institute

Italy Without Borders: Globalization and the Procession of Italian Simulacra. Monday, November 9

Prof. Stephanie Malia Hom, University of Oregon. Visitors' Lounge, Carr Hall, St. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph St. 6 to 8 p.m. Italian Studies and Emilio Goggio Chair of Italian Studies

COLLOQUIA

Why Abstinence Matters to Americans: The History and Theology of a Lifestyle.

Wednesday, November 4
Prof. Jessica Warner, psychiatry. 323
Old Victoria College Building. 4 to 6 p.m. History & Philosophy of Science & Technology

Topography, Origami, Technoscience. Friday, November 6

Prof. Michelle Murphy, history; Methods Café series. 235 Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George St. Noon. Diaspora & Transnational Studies

SEMINARS

Who Will Eat 'Em and Who Beat 'Em? Carrots and the Sticks in the Post-2012 Climate Regime. Tuesday, October 27 Jacob Werksman, World Resources Institute; Law, Governance and Global

Environmental Change workshop series. Solarium, Faculty of Law, 84 Queen's Park. 12:30 to 2 p.m. International Studies and Law

Innovation, Globalization and the University. Tuesday, October 27

Prof. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, speaker, panellists: Profs. Yu-Ling Chen, Centre for Global Engineering; Anita McGahan, Rotman School of Management; Murray Metcalfe, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering; Joseph Wong, political science. Prof. Janice Stein, Munk Centre for International Studies, chair. Vivian & David Campbell Conference Facility. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Munk Centre for International Studies

International Relations on Soviet Screens During Khrushchev's

Thursday, October 29 Prof. Sergei Kapterev, New York University, 208N Munk Centre for International Studies. 4 to 7 p.m. European, Russian & Eurasian Studies

Participatory Action Research for Environmental Health Among Senegalese Peri-Urban Farmers. Thursday, October 29

Nita Chaudhuri, PhD candidate, OISE. 1210 Bahen Centre for Information Technology, 4:10 p.m. Environment

Multiple Regulatory Functions of Crustacean Neurohormones in Molt Control and Reproduction. Friday, October 30

Prof. Jum Sook Chung, University of Maryland. 432 Ramsay Wright Building. 2 p.m. Cell & Systems Biology

Immigrants and Publics: Public **Attitudes Towards Immigration in** Europe and North America. Friday, October 30

Speakers: Profs. Gary Freeman and David Leal, University of Texas at Austin; Randall Hansen, U of T. 208N Munk Centre for International Studies. 2 to 4 p.m. Joint Initiative in German & European Studies and Canada Research Chair in Immigration & Governance

Beyond Zizek With Kierkegaard. Friday, October 30

Prof. Marko Zlomislic, Conestoga College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning. Combination Room, Trinity College. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Kierkegaard Circle

Civil Society, Russia and the G8. Monday, November 2 Vitaliy Kartamyshev, Oxfam. 208N Munk

Centre for International Studies. 2 to 4 p.m. International Studies

Extracellular Matrix and Tissue Architecture Regulate Epigenetics of Tissue Specificity and Breast Cancer. Monday, November 2
Mina Bissell, Lawrence Berkeley

National Laboratory; DSR Sarma lectureship in oncologic pathology. 2172 Medical Sciences Building. 4 p.m. Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology

Human Rights, Politics and the Hippocratic Oath: Exploring Physicians' Roles in Conflict Situations.

Monday, November 2 Panel discussion: Profs. James

Orbinski, medicine; Sharryn Aiken, Queen's University Law School; Craig Scott, Osgoode Hall Law School. Vivian & David Campbell Conference Faciltiy, Munk Centre for International Studies. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Amnesty International Canada and Save the Doctors

A Quest for Co-existence: People and Other Animals in an Increasingly Human World. Wednesday, November 4 John Wall, PhD candidate, Carleton University. Faculty Club. 4:10 p.m.

Kinase Signalling Pathways Regulating Zebrafish Morphogenesis. Friday, November 6
Prof. Daniel Wagner, Rice University.

Environment

432 Ramsay Wright Building. 2 p.m. Cell & Systems Biology

Gay Nazis on Campus? The Puzzling Evidence From Hamburg During the Third Reich. Friday, November 6

Prof. Geoffrey Giles, University of Florida; in conjunction with Holocaust Education Week, 208N Munk Centre for International Studies, 2 to 4 p.m. Joint Initiative in German & European Studies

The Stoic Way of Life. Friday, November 6

Prof. John Cooper, Princeton University. 200 Gerald Larkin Building. 3 to 5 p.m. Ethics

Carnival and the Law in 16th-Century Rouen: The Relationship Between the Abbaye des Conards and the Judicial Authorities of Rouen. Friday, November 6 Dylan Reid, CRRS fellow. 205 Northrop Frye Hall. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Reformation &

Renaissance Studies

Judicial Reform and Politics in Post-Soviet Ukraine. Monday, November 9 Speakers: Myroslava Bilak, Petro Jacyk visiting scholar; Serhiy Kudelia, Petro Jacyk post-doctoral fellow; Peter Solomon, European, Russian and Eurasian studies. 108N Munk Centre for International Studies. Noon to 3 p.m. European, Russian & Eurasian Studies and Petro Jacyk Program for the Study

Marfan Syndrome and Related Disorders: From Molecules to

Medicines.

Monday, November 9 Prof. Harry Dietz, Johns Hopkins University; B. Lowell Langille vascular biology lectureship. 2172 Medical Sciences Building. 4 p.m. Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology

Tiananmen: 20 Years Later. Tuesday, November 10

Speakers: Prof. Victor Falkenheim, political science; Rowena He, Harvard University; Jan Wong, journalist; Prof. Joseph Wong, political science. Vivian & David Campbell Conference Facility, Munk Centre for International Studies. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Munk Centre for International Studies

An Automated, Speech-Based Personal Emergency Response System.

Wednesday, November 11 Vicky Young, rehabilitation science; Elizabeth Rochon, speech-language pathology; Mike Massimi, computer science, moderator. 100 Health Sciences Building, 155 College St. 3 p.m. Health, Technology & Place

Sound In/As Religion: On Neglect of the Auditory Dimension in the Study of Religion. Wednesday, November 11
Prof. Rosalind Hackett, University of

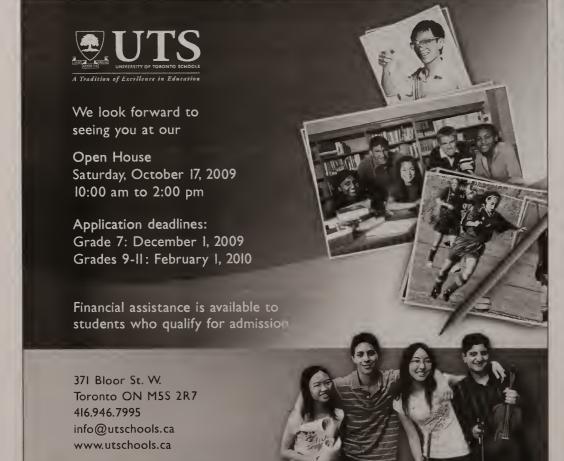
Tennessee. Combination Room, Trinity College. 4 to 5:45 p.m. Advanced Study of Religion

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Mykola Lysenko: Reinventing Ukrainian Classical Music. Saturday, October 31

Olga Andriewsky, Trent University, on In Search of Mykola Lysenko: A Historian's Exploration; Taras Filenko,

> University of Toronto Residential Housing Ancillary





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Duquesne University, on Mykola Lysenko: Founder of Ethnomusicology; Dagmara Turchyn, independent scholar, Toronto, on Ukrainian and European Contexts in Lysenko's Art Songs; Rada Stankovych, Kyiv Conservatory, Ukraine, on Lysenko's Operas. 330 Edward Johnson Building, Faculty of Music. 1 to 5 p.m. Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine and Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies

New Perspectives in the History of Immigration in France/Nouvelles perpectives sur l'histoire de l'immigration en France.

Thursday, November 5 and Friday, November 6

Panel 1, Immigration Policies Today: A Fork in the Road?; Panel 2, Colonialism, Decolonization and Immigration. 208N Munk Centre for International Studies 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, November 6

Panel 3, Rights, Protections and Their Limits; Panel 4, Postcolonial Immigration Politics and Scholarship. 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information and registration: http://webapp.mcis. utoronto.ca/Events.aspx. Joint Initiative in German & European Studies, Centre d'Etudes de la France et du Monde Francophone, Canada Research Chair in Immigration & Governance and European Studies

The Body of Desire: Psychoanalysis, Subjectivity and the Arts. Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7

An interdisciplinary symposium on the complexities of the human body and its relation to desire. Leading artists from the fields of music, dance, visual arts and the written and spoken word, along with distinguished Lacanian psychoanalysts, will explore the relationship between desire and creativity. Robert Gill Theatre, Koffler Student Services Centre. Information: thebodyofdesire@gmail.com. Study of Drama

MUSIC

FACULTY OF MUSIC EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING Thursdays at Noon. Thursday, October 29 Viola recital; Rudolf Haken, University of Illinois. Walter Hall. 12:10 p.m.

Thursday, November 5
From (nearly) Schubert to jazz and klezmer; Peter Stoll and Kathryn Tremills. Walter Hall. 12:10 p.m.

Faculty Artist Series.

Friday, October 30

Jazz faculty ensemble. Introduction
6 p.m., performance 6:30 p.m. Walter
Hall. Tickets \$25, students and seniors \$15.

Voice Performance Class. Tuesday, November 3 Toronto Masque Theatre. Walter Hall. 12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, November 10
Songs of requiem and light; third-year oratorio class. Walter Hall. 12:10 p.m.

Jazz Concerts. Wednesday, November 4 Small jazz ensembles. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 5 Small jazz ensembles. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11 Small jazz ensembles. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Opera Series. Thursday November 5 to Sunday, November 8
Haydn's II Mondo della Luna, Miah Im, conductor, Michael Patrick Albano and Erik Thor, co-directors. MacMillan Theatre. 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$26, students and seniors \$16.

VICTORIA COLLEGE Choirs in Concert. Saturday, October 31

All saints and all souls, musical feast for All Hallows' Eve. University Women's Chorus and Master Chorale, Lori-Anne Dolloff and Caron Daley, conductors; Faculty of Music presentation. Chapel. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$14, students and seniors \$8.

PLAYS AND READINGS

Don't Drink the Water.
Thursday to Saturday,
November 5 to November 7;
Tuesday to Saturday,
November 10 to November 14
Based on the book by Brenda Lee
Burke; adapted under the direction of
Marc Richard. Theatre Erindale
presentation. Erindale Studio Theatre,
Communication, Culture & Technology
Building, U of T Mississauga. Weekend
performances, 8 p.m.; weeknights,
7:30 p.m. Saturday matinee (Nov. 14)
2 p.m. Tickets \$14, students and seniors
\$9. Box office: 905-569-4369.

FILMS

White Mountains.

Tuesday, November 10

Central Asia Program film screening; Melis Ubukeyv, director; Kyrgyzstan, 1964. 108N Munk Centre for International Studies. Noon to 2 p.m. European, Russian & Eurasian Studies

EXHIBITIONS

U OF T ART CENTRE Gord Peteran: Furniture Meets Its Maker. To December 5

Gord Peteran uses fine cabinetry, found objects, assemblage and sculptural techniques to create a series of works that do not function as furniture, that are quite distinct from craft and that are not classifiable as design. Laidlaw Wing, University College. Hours: Tuesday to Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

BLACKWOOD GALLERY U OF T MISSISSAUGA Fall Out. To December 13

Artists Robyn Cumming, Simone Jones, Zilvinas Kempinas, Erika Kierulf, Kristina Lahde, Paul Litherland, Valerian Maly, Tom Sherman and Don Simmons explore gravity; curated by Christof Migone. Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

ROBARTS LIBRARY
The Story of Naples From
Antiquity to Modernity.
To December 15

Books, maps, archival documents, photographs, reproductions of paintings, postcards and annotations pertaining to the history of Naples from 1400 BC to the present; curated by Anna Makolkin and sponsored by Italian studies. Second floor. Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 10 p.m.

THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY Endless Forms Most Beautiful:

Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The Natural History of Charles Darwin.

To December 18An exhibition of books and manuscript material commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles

Darwin. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DORIS McCARTHY GALLERY U OF T SCARBOROUGH Ellen Moffat COMP OSE November 5 to December 13

An exhibition of two new media works that use interactivity, inquiry, perceptual tease and high low technology in sound composition and text generation; co-presented with the Kenderdine Art Gallery. Gallery hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

MISCELLANY

St. Michael's College Book Sale. Tuesday October 27 to Saturday, October 31

Thousands of books at low prices, with a particularly good selection of theology, philosophy and literature as well as classics and many, many paperbacks. John M. Kelly Library Reading Room. Tuesday, 6 to 9:30 p.m. (preview and refreshment \$20); Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (\$3, students free with ID); Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Celebration of the Life of Professor Emeritus Robert Jefferies.

Monday, November 9

Professor Emeritus Robert Jefferies of ecology and evolutionary biology, one of the world's leading Arctic sciences and global change biologists, died July 8. He was 73 years old. A celebration of his life will be held at the Great Hall, Hart House. All are welcome. 2 to 5 p.m.

COMMITTEES

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, U OF T MISSISSAUGA

A search committee has been established at the University of Toronto Mississauga
to recommend a chair of the Department of Anthropology effective July 1. Members
are: Professors Gage Averill, vice-principal (academic) and dean; Janice Boddy,
chair, anthropology, St. George campus; Todd Sanders, Esteban Parra and Alice Yao,
anthropology; Martin Evison, anthropology and forensic science program; Emmanuel
Nikiema, language studies; and Amrita Daniere, vice-dean (graduate) and chair,
geography; and Maria da Mota, administrative assistant, anthropology; and Emily
Holland, graduate student, and Lisa Brown, undergraduate student, U of T
Mississauga.

The committee would appreciate receiving nominations and/or comments from interested members of the university community. These should be submitted to Professor Gage Averill, vice-principal (academic) and dean, Room 3125. South Building by Nov. 4.

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES, U OF T MISSISSAUGA

A search committee has been established at the University of Toronto Mississauga
to recommend a chair of the Department of Historical Studies effective July 1.

Members are: Professors Gage Averill, vice-principal (academic) and dean; Kenneth
Mill, chair, history, St. George campus; Sarianna Metso, Shafique Virani and
Andreas Bendlin, historical studies; and Claude Evans, language studies; and Joan
Simalchik, historical studies; Sharon Majadsingh, undergraduate adviser, historical

studies; and Alyssa Wong, undergraduate student, U of T Mississauga.

The committee would appreciate receiving nominations and/or comments from interested members of the university community. These should be submitted to Professor Gage Averill, vice-principal (academic) and dean, Room 3125. South Building by Nov. 4.



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Be True to

Yourself

With fall convocation 2009 looming, we share the wisdom of a talented alumnus from his spring convocation address

BY HOWARD SHORE

I wanted to be a lawyer from the time I was 12 years old until the second week of law school. I first made that joke 27 years ago at the law school final banquet and I appreciate the chance to do it again, because it's a good joke. This speech, though, is actually tougher. That time, I just had to be funny for eight minutes; this time, I have eight minutes to say something worthy of what you've achieved. I have to somehow summarize everything I've learned in the past 27 years, to give you words to live by and truths to inspire, and be funny.

So be true to yourself, stop and smell the roses and all that stuff. It's all trite, it's all true and it's all useless — not life, just the bumper sticker version of life. Eight minutes is just a longer bumper sticker so take everything I say with a grain of salt. Not least of which because I haven't figured it out. I know there are right answers out there for every question. I really believe that. I also believe I may never figure out the right answer. You are going to make mistakes, you are going to keep on making mistakes and that's OK. By the way, if I were speaking to a medical school graduation, I wouldn't give the same speech.

But no matter what words I choose today, there is an obvious message implicit in my being here, implicit in the only thing you really know about me; I'm sort of a walking, talking example of what can happen when you pursue your dreams. I'm famous by lawyers' standards. I'm rich by lawyers' standards and pretty much any other standard at this point. And I get to spout off on a weekly basis on almost any subject and have millions of people listen throughout the world, which is pretty damn cool. But I can tell you that there's also a fry cook in North Hollywood who gave up everything to pursue his dreams of becoming a writer and he wasn't on the short list of speakers today....

When I left law and moved to Los Angeles my mother bought me a book: *Do What You Love, The Money Will Follow*, which was a very supportive gift from a Jewish mother whose son was resigning a partnership at a law firm. I never read the book. The title always stuck with me, though. It seemed like the equivalent of Eat What You Want and Get Skinny. Which obviously is going to sell better than Do What You Want, The Money Might Follow If You Get Exceptionally Lucky.

The fact is, I don't believe that things always turn out for the best. I think that's something said by people for whom things have turned out for the best. Find a homeless guy on your way home, say it to him and see how he reacts. Which is why I'm very uncomfortable with my life story being held up as an example to aspire to. Because I was an idiot. The fact that it all worked out very nicely doesn't make me any less of an idiot. The fact that people say it was courageous, the fact that a shockingly large number of my legal colleagues at the time told me they wished they'd had the guts to do what I was doing — none of that makes it any less idiotic.



I quit law, moved to L.A. and started writing, in that order. I didn't write part-time honing my craft while continuing to earn a living. I quit, moved and then started typing. Not because I knew I had what it takes — I didn't have a clue. Not because I thought if I could dream it, I could live it — if that were true, I'd be playing shortstop for the Detroit Tigers. I just knew if I was going to do it I had to just do it....

But I want to clarify something. I'm not saying my decision wasn't courageous because it was idiotic. I actually think it can be both idiotic and courageous, which sort of calls for a George Bush joke, but I'm going to move along. In this case, it wasn't courageous just because it wasn't that big a deal.

The one thing I was smart about from the beginning was that I knew the worst case scenario. The worst case scenario was that I'd get rolled by a transvestite hooker on Santa Monica Boulevard. OK, I knew the second worst-case scenario, which was that I would fail miserably, that I'd fall flat on my face and in two or three years I'd have to go back to law with my tail between my legs and with a tan and a story. And five years after that it would just be an amusing anecdote on my resumé. And this is what separates you and me from that fry cook. And this applies even if you are not thinking of joining the circus, a monastery or becoming an astronaut, or you are just thinking of changing firms or changing specialties or teaching for a while or taking six months to do anything.

You have a degree from the finest law school in the country, or at least it was in 1982. Which means one thing: you have what we call "screw you money." Actually that's not precisely what we call it but you get the point. You have it even before you start your first job because you will always be able to make a living proudly and honourably, which means you never have to be scared of failure. The great thing about safety nets isn't the reason your mother wants you to have one. It's not about planning for failure, it's not even about protecting you from failure. It's about making failure irrelevant.

Success cannot be what drives you; failure cannot be what you run from. I've always written what I found entertaining and crossed my fingers that other people would like it. I've always completely accepted that they might not. And if they didn't, I'd have come back to law with no regrets. I had no interest in being a success writing stuff that everyone loved except for me. That just seemed pointless.

And here's where I start getting trite, or triter as the case may be. There is no magic job. I did not hate every minute I practised law, not even close, and I don't love every moment I write, not even close. Happiness isn't a binary equation. Was I destined to write? Was writing my only way to happiness? If I had failed, if my career had not unfolded as it had, would I be miserable today? I hope not. Yes, for millions of people, Monday nights would be a miserable time, but I'd be fine. I hope I would have been able to take whatever career I wound up in and made the most of it. Because your job does not define you. What you do with your job, what you do with everything else in your life, that's what defines you — which is too bad, because I've got the coolest job in the world.

People tell you life is short, but it's not. My mother will curse me for tempting fate like that but for most of us there is plenty of time to screw up over and over and over again and maybe get one or two things right eventually.

So take your time, make the best choices you can and try, try, try to have fun. It's not always easy, even when your dreams come true. So I am ultimately saying: be true to yourself and stop and smell the roses. And finally, congratulations. No matter what you do with your life, you will always be proud, as I am, to call yourself a University of Toronto law school graduate — even if it means nothing in the States. Thank you and good luck.

Howard Shore, a graduate of the Faculty of Law, is an Emmy Award-winning television writer and producer. He is the creator of the award-winning TV series House. This piece first appeared in Nexus, the Faculty of Law magazine.

ARLENA ZUBER